

Business Characteristics Survey Consultation

This document can be used to help draft a collaborative submission or if you prefer you can email your response back to us.

On completion, please check and submit your form via:

Online: Please visit the [ABS Consultation Hub](#) to complete the survey online.

Email: innovation.technology@abs.gov.au

Post: Technology, Innovation and Business Characteristics Statistics Section
Locked Bag 10
Belconnen ACT 2616

Introduction

This consultation is seeking feedback on the Business Characteristics Survey to gain a better understanding of the importance of the various data and topics collected by the survey, what the data feeds into (i.e. how it is used), and suggestions for future content.

Any personal information you provide will be kept strictly confidential for ABS use only in accordance with the [Privacy at the ABS | Australian Bureau of Statistics](#).

Contact details

Please provide details of the best contact for this submission. These details will be used if we have any follow-up questions.

The [ABS Privacy Policy](#) outlines how the ABS will handle any personal information that you provide to us.

1. Contact name

2. Organisation (If applicable)

3. Do you wish to receive email updates on the outcomes of this consultation or future consultations? **(Required)**

- ☐ No
☐ Yes (please provide an email address below)

4. So that we can best understand the impact of these changes, please select the category that best describes you or the organisation you represent (Select one) (Required)

- ☐ Individual
- ☐ Academia/educational institution
- ☐ Australian Government
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Community organisation
- ☐ Industry body/association
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Non-government organisation
- ☐ State/territory Government
- ☐ Other (please specify)

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Background information

The Business Characteristics Survey has been released annually since 2005-06 and published in several separate releases, including:

- Business Use of Information Technology (8129.0)
- Innovation in Australian Business (8158.0)
- Characteristics of Australian Business (8167.0)
- Summary of IT Use and Innovation in Australian Business (8166.0)

Following significant stakeholder consultation in 2019-20, survey content was reviewed again and 'decoupled' into two separate releases alternating annually:

- *Innovation in Australian Business* (data collected via the Innovation Module) contains detailed information on innovation related activities, including collaboration and expenditure. Data was published for 2020-21 and 2022-23 reference years.
- *Characteristics of Australian Business* (data collected via the Digital Activity Module) contains detailed information on the use of digital technologies, business use of information and communication technologies (ICT), and cyber security practices. Data was published for 2021-22 reference year.

In 2024-25, following a review of the ABS' Forward Work Program, the Business Characteristics Survey will move to a biennial frequency – collecting and publishing data every second year, rather than every year.

How you can help

We are currently reviewing what data will be collected in the survey, publication content, and design options to ensure we can continue to provide high quality business characteristics data that is important to users, on a biennial frequency.

We would like to know how important some of the data items are, how they are being used, and the impact on you or your organisation if they were no longer collected or if we reduced the level of detail published.

We ask that you give consideration to each of the topics and identify which ones may have a higher importance than others.

Survey design options

The following redesign options are for consideration.

Design Option A – continue with the decoupled module/survey approach

Under this option the alternating modular content approach would continue but on a biennial frequency, meaning there would be a four-year gap between data points for each module.

This option would enable the same level of detailed information to be collected and published, and it would maintain data coherence with previous surveys.

Design Option B – combine important content from both modules into one survey

Under this option, following stakeholder engagement and consultation, we will identify **important** data items and content from each module and design a new survey, aiming to maintain data coherence with previous surveys as much as possible.

However, survey content and published outputs would reduce, as it is not feasible to simply combine the content from both modules into one survey.

Data would be collected and published every two years.

Design Option C – combine high priority data items from both modules and have an option for flexible or additional content

Under this option, following stakeholder engagement and consultation, **core data items** (i.e. only those of highest priority or importance) and content would be retained, leaving some capacity for the survey to add a small amount of additional content every two years.

The ‘flexible’ or ‘modular’ content would vary depending on the level of resourcing available, and the ABS would engage with stakeholders to identify topics that could be included. Examples of modular content include questions on management capability, clean energy, or more detailed questions on ICT skills and capabilities.

The redesign would aim to maintain data coherence with previous surveys as much as possible.

Data would be collected and published every two years.

5. Design Options

Please rank each design option (Required)

1 = your most preferred design option

3 = your least preferred design option

☐ Design Option A _____

☐ Design Option B _____

☐ Design Option C _____

6. Do you have any comments on the Design Options?

Understanding how you use our data

We would like to understand how you use the data released under the existing Business Characteristics Survey.

7. Which release(s) do you currently use? (Select one) (Required)

☐ Characteristics of Australian Business (i.e. Digital Activity Module) only

☐ Innovation in Australian Business (i.e. Innovation Module) only

☐ Both

☐ Neither (please explain why below)

8. What do you use the data for? (Select primary use) (Required)

☐ Policy and/or planning related purposes

☐ Academic research

☐ Market research

☐ Media

☐ Personal

☐ Other (please describe)

Topic 1 - Business information and structure

Across both modules, the Business Characteristics Survey captures a range of information about businesses, including location(s) and structure.

We are not proposing any changes to this topic and all questions will be **retained**. However, we would like to understand how data on foreign ownership is used and how important it is.

9. How important is data relating to the level of foreign ownership of the business? (Select one)

- ☐ Very important
- ☐ Important
- ☐ Nice to have
- ☐ Do not have a need for this data (Go to Q11)

10. Please describe what this data is used for and the expected impact (e.g. on policy, research etc.) if the question on foreign ownership was removed from the survey or if published outputs were reduced.

Topic 2 - Business management, performance and orientation

The Business Characteristics Survey captures information on:

- business performance compared to previous year
- barriers to performance
- types of working arrangements offered by the business
- business management practices

- digital and entrepreneurial orientation.

Definitions:

- Entrepreneurial orientation refers to indicators relating to a business's innovation capabilities, that is, it is asking about the business's innovation culture and readiness for innovation.

This area of the survey assists in measuring changes to business characteristics over time. While we are proposing to **retain** the suite of questions, we would like to understand how important some of these areas are and the impact if some published outputs are reduced.

11. How important is data on the performance of the business compared to the previous year? (Select one)

- ☐ Very important
- ☐ Important
- ☐ Nice to have
- ☐ Do not have a need for this data (Go to Q13)

12. Please describe how you use business performance data and the expected impact (e.g. on policy, research etc.) if published outputs were reduced.

13. How important is data relating to entrepreneurial orientation (indicators on the business's innovation culture and readiness for innovation)? (Select one)

- ☐ Very important
- ☐ Important
- ☐ Nice to have
- ☐ Do not have a need for this data (Go to Q15)

14. Please describe how you use data on entrepreneurial orientation and the expected impact (e.g. on policy, research etc.) if published outputs were reduced.

15. Please provide any further comments or feedback relating to the topic of Business management, performance and orientation (e.g. proposed changes, future content etc.).

Topic 3 - Business markets and competition

In addition to business performance, the Business Characteristics Survey captures information relating to export markets targeted by businesses, and competition.

We would like to understand how important this information is. If this topic is retained, we are considering reducing the level of detail published on the ABS website to improve data quality.

16. How important is data relating to the number of competitors the business has? (Select one)

- ☐ Very important
- ☐ Important
- ☐ Nice to have
- ☐ Do not have a need for this data (Go to Q18)

17. Please describe how business competition data is used and the expected impact (e.g. on policy, research etc.) if this question was removed from the survey or if published outputs were reduced.

18. How important is data relating to the export markets (regions) targeted by the business? (Select one)

- ☐ Very important
- ☐ Important
- ☐ Nice to have
- ☐ Do not have a need for this data (Go to Q20)

19. Please describe how export market data is used and the expected impact (e.g. on policy, research etc.) if this question was removed from the survey or if published outputs were reduced.

20. Please provide any further comments or feedback relating to the topic of Business markets and competition (e.g. proposed changes, future content etc.).

Topic 4 - Business finance

The Business Characteristics Survey captures a range of information relating to business finance including:

- whether the business sought debt or equity finance
- factors hampering or limiting the business from accessing general finance.

The survey also asks a range of questions on finance for innovation-related activities however these are discussed in Topic 12 – Innovation Activities of this Consultation Survey.

We would like to **understand** which aspects of business finance are important and how the data is being used. If this topic is retained, we are considering

reducing the level of detail published on the ABS website for some outputs in order to improve data quality.

21. How important is data relating to whether the business sought any debt or equity finance? (Select one)

- ☐ Very important
- ☐ Important
- ☐ Nice to have
- ☐ Do not have a need for this data

22. How important is data relating to factors that hamper the business in accessing finance? (Select one)

- ☐ Very important
- ☐ Important
- ☐ Nice to have
- ☐ Do not have a need for this data (Go to Q24)

23. Please describe how data on business finance is used and the expected impact (e.g. on policy, research etc.) if these questions were removed from the survey or if published outputs were reduced.

24. Please provide any further comments or feedback relating to the topic of Business finance (e.g. proposed changes, future content etc.).

Topic 5 - Business interaction with Government

There are a range of questions on the Business Characteristics Survey that relate to business interaction with government organisations.

Proposed changes:

We are considering **removing** the following questions due to data quality and provider burden:

- whether the business has any formal agreement to supply goods or services to any government agency
- use of the internet to interact with government organisations.

We would like to **understand** the importance of data on financial assistance received from government organisations and whether this should be expanded to include advisory assistance.

25. How important is data relating to the proportion of businesses that have formal agreements or contracts to supply goods or services to any government agency? (Select one)

- ☐ Very important
- ☐ Important
- ☐ Nice to have
- ☐ Do not have a need for this data

26. How important is data relating to the types of activities where the business used the internet to interact with government organisations? (Select one)

- ☐ Very important
- ☐ Important
- ☐ Nice to have
- ☐ Do not have a need for this data

27. How important is data relating to whether businesses received financial assistance from Australian government organisations? (Select one)

- ☐ Very important
- ☐ Important
- ☐ Nice to have
- ☐ Do not have a need for this data

28. Advisory assistance from Government organisations

We are proposing to expand the question relating to *financial assistance from government* to ask whether the business received any *financial and/or advisory assistance* from Government organisations.

How important is data on whether businesses received *advisory assistance* from Australian government organisations?

- ☐ Very important
- ☐ Important
- ☐ Nice to have (Go to Q30)
- ☐ Do not have a need for this data (Go to Q30)

29. Please describe why data on businesses that received advisory assistance from Australian government organisations is important and how it would be used.

30. Please describe what data on business interaction with government is used for and the expected impact (e.g. on policy, research etc.) if these questions were removed from the survey.

31. Please provide any further comments or feedback relating to the topic of Business interaction with Government (e.g. proposed changes, future content etc.).

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Topic 6 - Collaborative activities and fee-for-service

Business collaboration and collaborative arrangements are collected on the Business Characteristics Survey for two different areas – general collaboration activities and collaboration for innovation-related activities.

Definitions:

- *General collaboration* is defined as participation in joint projects with other businesses or organisations (including internally within the business). It includes informal arrangements and excludes straight fee-for-service arrangements and franchise arrangements.
- *Collaboration for innovation* is defined as participation in joint projects with other businesses or organisations specifically for the purposes of developing or introducing new or significantly improved goods, services or processes.
- *Fee-for-service for innovation* is an arrangement whereby an amount is paid to a service provider for specific work, or services, completed at the business's request. It includes informal arrangements and excludes franchise arrangements.

Proposed changes:

We are proposing to **retain** the topics and questions relating to collaboration for innovation-related activities, however we may consider reducing the level of detail published in order to improve data quality.

We are proposing to **remove** the general collaboration question(s) from the survey but are interested in understanding how important general business collaboration data is and how it is used.

32. In relation to collaboration data, which is of highest importance and why?

- ☐ I do not have a need for this data (Go to Q39)
- ☐ General business collaboration activities (provide details below)
- ☐ Collaboration for Innovation-related activities (provide details below)

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33. How important is data relating to the types of general collaborative arrangements businesses are involved in? (Select one)

- ☐ Very important
- ☐ Important
- ☐ Nice to have
- ☐ Do not have a need for this data (Go to Q35)

34. Please describe what business collaboration data is used for and the expected impact (e.g. on policy, research etc.) if this question was removed from the survey.

35. How important is data relating to the types of organisations businesses collaborate with for innovation-related activities? (Select one)

- ☐ Very important
- ☐ Important
- ☐ Nice to have
- ☐ Do not have a need for this data

36. How important is data relating to the benefits of collaborating for innovation-related activities? (Select one)

- ☐ Very important
- ☐ Important
- ☐ Nice to have
- ☐ Do not have a need for this data

37. How important is data relating to factors that limit or prevent collaboration for innovation-related activities? (Select one)

- ☐ Very important
- ☐ Important
- ☐ Nice to have
- ☐ Do not have a need for this data

38. Please describe how you use data on collaboration for innovation-related activities and the expected impact (e.g. on policy, research etc.) if these questions were removed from the survey or if published outputs were reduced.

39. Please provide any further comments or feedback relating to the topic of Collaboration and fee-for-service (e.g. proposed changes, future content etc.).

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Topic 7 - e-Commerce

The Business Characteristics Survey (Digital Activity Module) captures detailed information relating to e-commerce activities, in particular:

- how businesses receive orders over the internet
- the percentage of income received from orders over the internet
- types of electronic invoices the business uses
- whether the business places orders for goods and services over the internet.

Definitions:

- *Electronic invoices* are issued to customers directly by the business or via an intermediary (such as an accountant or third-party company).
- *e-Invoicing* is the automated digital exchange of invoice information between a supplier's and buyer's software based on an agreed standard. It excludes PDF or scanned paper invoicing.

We are proposing to **remove** the question relating to the types of electronic invoices used by businesses due to data quality concerns and high provider burden. If the question is retained, we may consider reducing data outputs to improve the quality of the data published.

40. How important is data relating to the types of electronic invoices used by businesses? (Select one)

- ☐ Very important
- ☐ Important
- ☐ Nice to have
- ☐ Do not have a need for this data (Go to Q42)

41. Please describe how data on business use of types of electronic invoices is used and the expected impact (e.g. on policy, research etc.) if this question was removed from the survey or if published outputs were reduced.

42. Please provide any further comments or feedback relating to the topic of e-Commerce (e.g. proposed changes, future content etc.).

Topic 8 - Internet connectivity and online presence

One of the core topics on the Business Characteristics Survey (Digital Activity Module) focuses on business internet connectivity and online presence. In particular it seeks to capture data on:

- the type of internet access the business has (e.g. 4G, NBN etc)
- the maximum contracted download speed (in ranges)
- the performance level of the business's internet connection
- the type of online presence the business has.

We are proposing to **remove** questions relating to:

- maximum contracted internet download speed for the business
- the business's assessment on the performance of their internet connection.

We are proposing their removal due to high provider burden in reporting this information and data quality concerns. If the questions are retained, we may consider reducing data outputs to improve the quality of data published.

43. How important is data relating to maximum contracted download speeds for the business? (Select one)

- ☐ Very important
- ☐ Important
- ☐ Nice to have
- ☐ Do not have a need for this data (Go to Q45)

44. Please describe how data on maximum contracted download speeds is used and the expected impact (e.g. on policy, research etc.) if this question was removed from the survey or if published outputs were reduced.

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45. How important is data relating to the business's assessment on the performance of their internet connection? (Select one)

- ☐ Very important
- ☐ Important
- ☐ Nice to have
- ☐ Do not have a need for this data (Go to Q47)

46. Please describe how business internet connection performance data is used and the expected impact (e.g. on policy, research etc.) if this question was removed from the survey or if published outputs were reduced.

47. Please provide any further comments or feedback relating to the topic of Internet connectivity and online presence (e.g. proposed changes, future content etc.).

Topic 9 - Cyber security

The Business Characteristics Survey (Digital Activity Module) captures information on cyber security incidents experienced by businesses, what impact the incident had, and the measures in place to prevent cyber security incidences.

Definitions:

- A *cyber security incident* is a single event, or a linked series of events, that threaten the integrity, availability or confidentiality of digital information.

We are proposing to **retain** this topic on the survey but would like to know how the data is being used and how important it is.

**48. How important is data relating to business cyber security?
(Select one)**

- ☐ Very important
- ☐ Important
- ☐ Nice to have
- ☐ Do not have a need for this data (Go to Q50)

49. Please describe how data on business cyber security is used and the expected impact (e.g. on policy, research etc.) if the topic of Cyber security was removed from the survey or if published outputs were reduced.

50. Please provide any further comments or feedback relating to the topic of Cyber security (e.g. proposed changes, future content etc.).

Topic 10 - Skills

The Business Characteristics Survey captures a range of information relating to skills, in both the Digital Activity Module and the Innovation Module, including:

- the main types of skills used by the business in undertaking its core business activities
- whether the business experienced a shortage or deficiency of skills and the broad measures the business took to address skill shortages
- detailed questions on ICT skills within the business and actions the business took to either develop ICT skills or recruit ICT specialists
- skills used in innovation related activities.

Definitions:

- ICT stands for Information and Communication Technology.

We are proposing to **retain** the questions capturing information on general skills and shortages.

To reduce survey content and provider burden, we are proposing to **remove** questions relating to:

- skills used in innovation-related activities
- who performed ICT functions for the business
- whether the business provided training to develop ICT related skills for employees
- whether the business recruited (or tried to recruit) ICT specialists.

51. How important is data relating to skills used in innovation-related activities? (Select one)

- ☐ Very important
- ☐ Important
- ☐ Nice to have
- ☐ Do not have a need for this data

52. How important is data relating to who performed ICT functions for a business? (Select one)

- ☐ Very important
- ☐ Important
- ☐ Nice to have
- ☐ Do not have a need for this data

53. How important is data relating to the training, development or recruitment of ICT expertise? (Select one)

- ☐ Very important
- ☐ Important
- ☐ Nice to have
- ☐ Do not have a need for this data

54. Please describe how data on ICT and innovation-related skills is used and the expected impact (e.g. on policy, research etc.) if these questions were removed from the survey.

55. Please provide any further comments or feedback relating to the topic of Skills (e.g. proposed changes, future content etc.).

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Topic 11 - Use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs)

The Business Characteristics Survey (Digital Activity Module) captures detailed information on the business's use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs), including:

- the type of ICTs used by the business (selected ICTs only)
- the outcome or benefit to the business in using ICTs (selected activities)
- factors that prevented or limited the business from using ICTs
- the management practices that were undertaken for the use of the ICTs
- business processes that used ICTs
- the use of paid cloud computing services for selected applications or activities.

Data from this topic is often used to understand and measure the digitisation of businesses across the economy, and the relationship between technology adoption/uptake, innovation and productivity growth.

Given ICTs have become commonplace in business, we would like to **understand** how important this data is and what the data is used for. If the questions are retained, we may consider reducing data outputs to improve the quality of data published.

56. Business use of selected and emerging ICTs.

The survey collects information on business use of ICT – such as enterprise resource planning software, data analytics tools, Internet of Things (IoT), blockchain technology, and artificial intelligence (AI) (etc.).

How important is data relating to business use of selected and emerging ICTs? (Select one)

- ☐ Very important
- ☐ Important
- ☐ Nice to have
- ☐ Do not have a need for this data

57. How important is data relating to the use of ICTs to achieve selected business outcomes? (Select one)

- ☐ Very important
- ☐ Important
- ☐ Nice to have
- ☐ Do not have a need for this data

58. How important is data relating to factors that prevent or limit businesses from using ICTs? (Select one)

- ☐ Very important
- ☐ Important
- ☐ Nice to have
- ☐ Do not have a need for this data

59. ICTs used in management practices.

The survey collects information on whether the business used ICTs in a range of management practices, such as reviewing staff performance against digital skills targets, investing in new digital technologies or infrastructure, shifting production towards goods and services that use ICT more intensively (etc.).

How important is data relating to management practices for the use of ICTs? (Select one)

- ☐ Very important
- ☐ Important
- ☐ Nice to have
- ☐ Do not have a need for this data

60. Update and adoption of ICTs.

The following longstanding question is designed to understand the uptake and adoption of ICTs across selected business activities (such as invoicing, stock control, planning, and workplace health and safety).

We are proposing the removal of this question as businesses have adopted ICTs as part of everyday functions. However, we would like to understand the importance of this data and how it is being used.

How important is data relating to business processes and functions that use information and communication technologies? (Select one)

- ☐ Very important
- ☐ Important
- ☐ Nice to have
- ☐ Do not have a need for this data

61. Please describe how data on the broader topic of business use of ICTs (including barriers to using ICTs) is used and the expected impact (e.g. on policy, research etc.) if these questions were removed from the survey or if published outputs were reduced.

62. Paid cloud computing services

Paid cloud computing services are information technology services that are used over the internet to access software, files, computing power or storage capacity.

How important is data relating to the use and type of paid cloud computing services utilised by the business? (Select one)

- ☐ Very important
- ☐ Important
- ☐ Nice to have
- ☐ Do not have a need for this data (Go to Q64)

63. Please describe how data on paid cloud computing services is used and the expected impact (e.g. on policy, research etc.) if these questions were removed from the survey or if published outputs were reduced.

64. Please provide any further comments or feedback relating to the topic of Use of Information and Communication Technologies (e.g. proposed changes, future content etc.).

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Topic 12 - Innovation activities

The Business Characteristics Survey (innovation module) has a comprehensive focus on innovation activities undertaken by the business in the two years to the survey reference date.

We are proposing to **retain** the following core data items relating to innovation activity:

- Incidence of innovation activity
- Novelty factor
- Who developed the innovation
- Environmental benefits of innovating
- Abandoned innovation
- Innovation still in development
- Digitalisation factors
- Benefits of innovation
- Barriers to innovation
- Amount spent on innovation and type of activity

We are proposing the **removal** of the following questions from the survey:

- Total income from the sale of new or significantly improved goods and/or services
- Percentage of costs saved from the introduction of new or significantly improved processes
- Sources of ideas for innovation
- Whether the business received financial support from Australian government organisations for innovation-related activities
- Innovation finance (including whether sought and source of).

65. How important is data on total income resulting from the sale of new or significantly improved goods and/or services? (Select one)

- ☐ Very important
- ☐ Important
- ☐ Nice to have
- ☐ Do not have a need for this data (Go to Q67)

66. Please describe the expected impact (e.g. on policy, research etc.) if the question on total income from the sale of innovated goods/services was removed from the survey.

67. How important is data on the percentage of costs saved as a result of introducing new or significantly improved processes? (Select one)

- ☐ Very important
- ☐ Important
- ☐ Nice to have
- ☐ Do not have a need for this data (Go to Q69)

68. Please describe the expected impact (e.g. on policy, research etc) if the question on the percentage of costs saved as a result of introducing new or significantly improved processes was removed from the survey.

69. How important is data on the source of ideas and information for innovation? (Select one)

- ☐ Very important
- ☐ Important
- ☐ Nice to have
- ☐ Do not have a need for this data (Go to Q71)

70. Please describe the expected impact (e.g. on policy, research etc.) if the question on source of ideas and information for innovation was removed from the survey.

71. How important is data relating to whether the business received financial assistance from Australian Government organisations for innovation-related activities? (Select one)

- ☐ Very important
- ☐ Important
- ☐ Nice to have
- ☐ Do not have a need for this data (Go to Q73)

72. Please describe the expected impact (e.g. on policy, research etc.) if the question on whether the business received financial assistance from Australian Government organisations was removed from the survey.

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73. Additional funds sought.

We are proposing the removal of questions relating to whether the business sought additional funds for the purpose of developing or introducing new or significantly improved goods, services or processes, and the sources of funding, but would like to understand how important the information is and the impact if the topic of Innovation Finance was removed from the survey.

How important is data relating to innovation finance (including source of finance)? (Select one)

- ☐ Very important
- ☐ Important
- ☐ Nice to have
- ☐ Do not have a need for this data (Go to Q75)

74. Please describe the expected impact (e.g. on policy, research etc.) if the questions relating to Innovation Finance were removed from the survey.

75. Please provide any further comments or feedback relating to the topic Innovation Activity (e.g. proposed changes, future content etc.).

Topic 13 - Most significant innovation

In response to the Innovation Metrics Review and opportunities to capture more detailed information on innovative activities with a stand-alone survey, the Business Characteristics Survey (Innovation module) captures comprehensive data on the business's **most significant innovation**.

Definitions:

- The most significant innovation is the good, service or process that was introduced (or significantly improved) by the business and the one that had, or was expected to have, the most benefit to the business.

The suite of questions on most significant innovation align closely with those outlined in **Topic 12 - Innovation activities**, but focus only on the most significant good, service or process introduced by the business during the reference period.

Core data collected for most significant innovation include:

- Whether the most significant innovation was for a good or service, or a business process
- Novelty factor of the most significant innovation
- Target market for the most significant innovated good, service or process
- Incidences of selected commercialisation activities associated with the most significant innovation activity
- Whether commercialisation objectives were achieved for the most significant innovation activity
- Incidence of selected factors that prevented the commercialisation of the most significant innovative activity.

We are proposing to **remove** the topic of Most Significant Innovation from the survey to reduce content and provider burden but would like to understand how the data is used and the impact if it is removed.

76. How important is data relating to the most significant innovation activities of the business? (Select one)

- ☐ Very important
- ☐ Important
- ☐ Nice to have
- ☐ Do not have a need for this data (Go to Q78)

77. Please describe the expected impact (e.g. on policy, research etc.) if the topic of most significant innovation was removed from the survey.

Topic 14 - Clean technology

Clean technology is technology that helps lower greenhouse gas emissions and/or reduce environmental impacts.

We are proposing to **collect** information on business use of advanced or emerging clean technologies, as well as factors that prevent or limit businesses in adopting advanced or emerging clean technologies.

78. How important is data relating to business uptake of advanced or emerging clean technologies? (Select one)

- ☐ Very important
- ☐ Important
- ☐ Nice to have
- ☐ Do not have a need for this data (Go to Q80)

79. Please describe how data on business uptake of clean technologies would be used.

Topic 15 - Future content and additional feedback

As part of regular, ongoing discussions with key stakeholders, the ABS welcomes suggestions for additional content that could be collected under the Business Characteristics Survey.

80. What additional content would be of use to you and why?

81. If you have feedback or comments on any other aspect of the Business Characteristics Survey, please provide details in the text box below.

Thank you.

On completion, please check and submit your form via:

Email: innovation.technology@abs.gov.au

Post: Technology, Innovation and Business Characteristics Statistics Section
Locked Bag 10
Belconnen ACT 2616

Accessing and correcting your personal information

You have the right to request access to, and correction of, your personal information. Please contact innovation.technology@abs.gov.au if you need to do this. We will take all reasonable steps to address your request.

Next Steps

This consultation will close on **Friday 11 October 2024**.